

## DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY STATUS REPORT # 5

**Tuesday, May 25, 2004**

### **SITUATION OVERVIEW:**

A stationary front that stalled out over Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan over the weekend and brought with it severe thunderstorms and heavy rains, has caused widespread flooding and wind damage in southern and southeastern Lower Michigan. Much of the rainfall occurred in saturated areas that have experienced well-above average precipitation for the month of May. Additional rainfall and storms are possible today across the southern portion of Lower Michigan, which could bring 1" to 1.5" of rain to many localities. If that occurs, the widespread flooding problems are likely to worsen.

Following are unofficial rainfall totals from the National Weather Service for the period **Thursday, May 20 through Sunday, May 23** at various affected locations across the region:

- Grand Rapids: 3.39 inches
- Lansing: 4.21 inches
- Muskegon: 4.15 inches
- Flint: 3.6 inches (approximate)
- Detroit: 4.1 inches (approximate)
- White Lake: 3.8 inches (approximate)
- Saginaw: 2.3 inches (approximate)

As of 4:00 PM today, a total of 15 Michigan counties are still under Flood Warnings from the National Weather Service: Allegan, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Clinton, Gladwin, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Midland, Newaygo, Ottawa, Saginaw, Shiawassee, and Tuscola.

The National Weather Service reports the following flood information for affected rivers and streams in southern and southeastern Lower Michigan (as of 5:00 AM, May 25, 2004):

<b>River</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Current Level (Ft)</b>	<b>Flood Stage (Ft)</b>	<b>Expected Crest (Ft)</b>	<b>Date of Crest</b>
Tittabawassee	Midland	25.0	24.0	25.5	5/25
Shiawassee	Owosso	8.4	7.0	Has Crested	
Shiawassee	Fergus	12.7	10	12.8	5/25
Muskegon	Newaygo	12.5	11.0	12.8	5/25
Cass	Frankenmuth	19.2	17	19.6	5/25
Saginaw	Saginaw	18.0	19	19.5	5/25
Flint	Flint	12.5	13	Has Crested	
Kearsley Creek	Davison	9.8	10.0	Has Crested	
Huron	Hamburg	7.8	6.5	8.2	5/27
N. Br. Clinton	Mt. Clemens	18.3	15.0	Has Crested	
Clinton	Mt. Clemens	16.7	16.0	Has Crested	
Clinton	Sterling Heights	15.1	15.0	Has Crested	

River	Location	Current Level (Ft)	Flood Stage (Ft)	Expected Crest (Ft)	Date of Crest
Grand	Lansing	12.0	11.0	Has Crested	
Grand	Ionia	23.0	21	23.4	5/25
Grand	Lowell	15.2	15	17.7	5/26
Grand	Ada	19.4	20.0	21.7	5/27
Grand	Comstock Park	14.0	12.0	16.5	5/27
Grand	Grand Rapids	16.7	18.0	19.4	5/28
Grand	Robinson Twp	14.5	13.3	15.3	5/28
Thornapple	Hastings	9.6	7.0	9.9	5/26
Red Cedar	East Lansing	7.5	7.0	7.6	5/25
Looking Glass	Eagle	6.4	5.8	Has Crested	
Maple	Maple Rapids	10.4	9.0	Has Crested	
Pere Marquette	Scottville	5.0	5.5	5.7	5/25
Chippewa	Mt. Pleasant	7.8	8.0	8.0	5/25

## LOCAL ACTIONS TAKEN:

All affected communities are taking appropriate local actions to respond to and recover from the flooding and severe storm damage. The following communities have declared a local “state of emergency,” pursuant to 390 PA of 1976, as amended (Michigan Emergency Management Act), as a result of the flooding or severe storm damage:

- Berrien County (storm damage)
- City of Dearborn Heights (flooding)
- Macomb County (flooding)
- Allen Park (flooding)
- City of Ionia (flooding)
- Ionia County (flooding)
- City of Ecorse (flooding)
- St. Joseph County (storm damage); however, this local declaration was later rescinded.

## STATE ACTIONS TAKEN:

### Governor / Executive Office

Governor Granholm reviewed Macomb County’s flooded areas via helicopter on Tuesday afternoon. Executive staff from the Michigan State Police accompanied the Governor on the flight. The Governor held a press conference at Macomb Township Hall after the aerial tour. Additionally, Lt. Governor Cherry toured flood-impacted areas in Ionia County today with involved local and state officials.

### Emergency Management Division / Michigan Department of State Police

In response to this widespread situation, the Emergency Management Division of the Michigan State Police (EMD/MSP) has partially activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Lansing and is actively monitoring ongoing response and recovery actions. Appropriate state agencies have been notified of the incident and are conducting their own investigations and assessments of the situation, in accordance with their assigned roles and responsibilities in the Michigan Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). The EMD/MSP has begun to collect and compile damage and impact assessment data from affected local jurisdictions and involved state agencies and private sector organizations. These assessment activities will

continue in the coming days as the State attempts to determine the scope, magnitude and severity of the flooding and storm damage.

#### Michigan Department of State

The Michigan Department of State has issued an emergency exemption waiving International Registration Plan (IRP) and Michigan registration requirements for utility repair vehicles from the following agencies: Indianapolis Power and Light (Indianapolis, IN); Parr Electric (Kansas City, MO); Dillard Smith Electric (Knoxville, TN); Wisconsin Public (Green Bay, WI); Pike Electric (Knoxville, TN); and Wisconsin Public Service. These carriers are also exempt from displaying IFTA fuel decals and drivers hours of service rules in 49 CFR Part 395.

The emergency waiver allows for restoring power to Michigan residences and businesses that lost power in the May 21, 2004 storm. The emergency exemption waiver is approved through Wednesday, May 26, 2004.

#### Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is conducting a comprehensive assessment of damages and impacts to state parks and recreation areas in four affected southern Michigan districts. Damage and impact figures are being compiled.

#### Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth / Public Service Commission is collecting and compiling damage and impact assessment data from affected electric utilities, including Consumers Energy, Detroit Edison, and American Electric Power.

#### Michigan Department of Transportation

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is coordinating with local officials to monitor and assess the status of state and local highways and bridges in the affected areas. The MDOT is working to repair a section of the southbound lanes of Interstate 75 in Arenac County near Alger that was damaged from water undercutting the roadway. A 10-mile section of southbound I-75 is closed in Ogemaw and Arenac Counties. Traffic is being detoured to nearby roadways. The damaged freeway section is expected to be reopened by Wednesday, May 26.

#### Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will coordinate with Ionia County officials later today to monitor and assess the current status of the Lyons Dam, located in the City of Lyons on the Grand River. The MDEQ is also monitoring flood-related wastewater overflows in several communities in the affected area (see separate “Environmental Concerns” report below in the Damage and Impacts section).

#### Michigan Office of Services to the Aging

The Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (MOSA) is determining costs and needs in areas of the State with flood damage and storm damage. MOSA reports that there has been no interruption in their services, but have incurred additional costs due to difficulty in delivering meals, providing additional meals and providing water to clients because of power outages.

#### Michigan Department of Community Health

The Michigan Department of Community Health is contacting all MDCH regional offices to obtain status reports and estimates of additional costs incurred due to the flooding and storm damage.

### Michigan Department of Agriculture

The Michigan Department of Agriculture is assessing the status of restaurants and food establishments in Jackson County and other areas affected by the power outages. The MDA is also checking on the status of downed trees throughout the affected region to determine if any were ash trees that might have been infested with the Emerald Ash Borer pest.

### **DAMAGE AND IMPACTS:**

The following damage and impacts have been reported to date:

#### **Summary of Preliminary Damage and Impacts**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Homes Damaged</b>	<b>Homes Destroyed</b>	<b>Businesses Damaged</b>	<b>Businesses Destroyed</b>	<b>Local Declaration</b>	<b>Public Damage</b>
City of Dearborn Hts	0	0	100	0	0	0	YES	?
Berrien Co	1	14	135	0	8	0	YES	?
Jackson Co	0	0	5	0	0	0	NO	?
City of Romulus	0	0	2,000	0	12	0	NO	?
Cass Co	0	0	15-20	0	0	0	NO	?
Eaton Co	0	0	-	-	-	-	NO	?
Ingham Co	1	2	600	0	1	1	NO	1 school; 1 university
St Joseph Co	2	4	3	1	3	-	YES**	Yes - TBD
City of Port Huron	0	0	65	0	0	0	NO	2 sewer lines
City of Lansing	0	0	160	0	0	0	NO	1 zoological park
City of Allen Park	0	0	500	0	20	0	YES	?
St Clair Co	0	0	-	-	-	-	NO	1 govt bldg
Sanilac Co	0	0	70	0	0	0	NO	?
Macomb Co	0	0	500	0	50	0	YES	?
Newaygo Co	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	None
Ionia Co	0	0	20	0	10	0	YES	1 dam
City of Ionia	-	-	-	-	-	-	YES	?
Barry Co	0	0	180	0	0	0	NO	?
Saginaw Co	0	0	0	0	0	0	NO	1 earthen dike
City of Ecorse	-	-	-	-	-	-	YES	?
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4,358</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7 jurisdictions</b>

\*\* St. Joseph County initially declared for storm damage; however, this local declaration was later cancelled.

### Electrical Power Disruptions

Consumers Energy reported that more than 247,000 customers were without power as a result of the May 21 and 22 storms – the 10<sup>th</sup> highest total in Consumers Energy history – with 7,100 still without service as of Tuesday afternoon. DTE Energy had 236,000 customers without power over the weekend, with 3,600 still without service on Tuesday afternoon. About 80,000 American Electric Power customers in southwest Michigan lost power during the storms, and about 17,000 remained without power on Tuesday morning. The Michigan Public Service Commission reported today that, all totaled, 563,000 customers were without power during varying points over the weekend, and that 27,700 customers were still without power on Tuesday afternoon. Power should be restored to most electrical customers by late Tuesday evening or early Wednesday.

### Roads Affected

Local communities and newspapers from across the affected area reported today that numerous local roads were still flooded and impassable, making morning commutes difficult in many cases. Many of these roads may remain closed or partially-closed through Tuesday.

### Tornado Damage

Tornadoes touched down on Sunday afternoon (May 23) near the cities of Williamston (Ingham County) and Montrose (Genesee County). No reports of significant damage.

### Significant Business Damage

The City of Benton Harbor (Berrien County) sustained at least \$800,000 in damage to businesses (per the City Manager).

### Impacts on the Elderly

In the City of Utica, about 80 elderly residents from the Riverside 175 senior complex were evacuated by fire fighters on Sunday (May 23) when the Clinton River went over its banks. The residents spent the night with relatives or were sheltered at a nearby church.

### Environmental Concerns

Wastewater treatment overflows have been reported in the cities of Almont, Plainwell, Durand, Manistee, Grand Ledge, Manistee, Grand Rapids, and Port Huron, sending diluted raw sewage into streams and rivers. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is monitoring this situation.

## **Local Jurisdiction Reports.**

### Eaton County

Flooding has submerged 23 county roads, with two washed out. An unknown number of basements have been flooded as well. A natural gas leak occurred in Sunfield on Sunday (May 23) as a result of a lightning strike, but that has since been repaired.

### Ingham County

Flooding has caused approximately \$200,000 damage to an elementary school in the Leslie Public School District. The City of Lansing is experiencing residential flooding, mainly in the vicinity of Pennsylvania Avenue, near the confluence of the Red Cedar River and Grand River. Minor flooding also occurred in the basement of the Intramural West Building on the campus of Michigan State University.

### City of Dearborn Heights

Flooding has damaged at least 100 homes. The city declared a local state of emergency on May 21.

### Jackson County

Flooding has damaged 5 homes in various locations of the county. Severe winds also downed many power lines, which caused power outages.

### City of Romulus

The City of Romulus reports that 2,000+ homes and 12 businesses have been damaged by flooding and severe winds. The flooding and storms also caused some damage to public buildings and electric power infrastructure.

#### Cass County

Cass County reports that 15-20 homes – primarily in the western part of the county – incurred storm damage. Most of the damage was the result of downed tree limbs on homes. Many power lines in the county incurred extensive damage due to high winds.

#### St. Joseph County

Severe storms in St. Joseph County on May 21 caused 2 deaths and 4 injuries, damaged three homes and three businesses, and destroyed one home. The county declared a local state of emergency on May 21, but cancelled the declaration on May 23.

#### Shiawassee County

The county has not submitted an assessment report, but the county reports that there is a possibility of a dam failure in the City of Corunna. This situation is being investigated by the county and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

#### City of Port Huron

The City of Port Huron reports flood damage to 65 homes. In addition, two sewer lines were damaged by floodwaters.

#### City of Allen Park

Flooding has damaged at least 500 homes and 20 businesses in the City of Allen Park. The city declared a local state of emergency on May 22.

#### St. Clair County

St. Clair County reports minor flood damage in the basement of the county's health department building. No information has been submitted regarding damage to private homes and businesses.

#### Sanilac County

Flooding in the City of Croswell damaged 70 homes.

#### Genesee County

Flooding is reported throughout Genesee County, with several subdivisions being cut off by floodwaters. However, damage assessments are still being conducted so the exact number of structures affected has yet to be determined.

#### Macomb County

Flooding in Macomb County has damaged 500 homes and 50 businesses and caused many local roads to be impassable. The county declared a local state of emergency on May 23.

#### Newaygo County

Newaygo County reports that Consumers Energy has enacted their emergency plan for the Croton Dam on the Muskegon River. The dam is secure, but homes in some low lying areas may have flooding.

#### Ionia County

Flooding in Ionia County has damaged 20 homes and 10 businesses. Ionia County declared a local state of emergency on May 24 due to the flooding and the potential failure of the Lyons Dam. (See separate report for the City of Ionia.)

### Barry County

Barry County reports 180 homes damaged and 200 families displaced by flooding.

### Wayne County

The county has not yet submitted an assessment report, but newspaper accounts of the damage within the county indicate that upwards of 1,000 homes may have been flooded. In addition, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality reports that Van Buren Township and the City of Belleville are under a boil water order due to a loss of water system pressure caused by a power outage.

### City of Ionia

The Grand River is at or above flood stage in Ionia due to an emergency release at the Webber Dam in Lyons by the Consumers Energy Company. The flooding could potentially affect a manufacturing plant and several other businesses in the city. In addition, at least 20 homes in the city and an additional 136 homes in Ionia and Easton Townships could be affected. The city's wastewater treatment plant and one lift station are also at risk. There has been a local effort filling 7,500 sandbags to protect various public facilities in the city.

### Berrien County

A severe storm on May 20 resulted in wind speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour, which left over 60,000 American Electric Power customers without power and caused extensive property damage and debris in 23 affected local communities and townships. Debris removal is being hampered due to impassable roadways and debris piles in front yards and rights of way. The Benton Harbor water treatment plant lost power on May 21, forcing the city to issue a boil water order for local residents. Power was restored to the plant late in the afternoon of May 22, but not all pumping stations were restored to full power. As a result, some residents are still under a boil water order. All Benton Harbor schools are closed to students until the boil water order is lifted and water and sewer services can be restored. Debris and road closures have forced some senior transportation and meal services to be curtailed. Retail stores are reporting losses of perishable items.

### Saginaw County

A section of the Flint River Dike is breaking, causing flooding of adjacent farm fields. However, approximately 50 homes are close to the area currently being flooded.

### City of Ecorse

The City of Ecorse reports homes and businesses damaged by flooding.

## **FLOOD DAMAGE PHOTOS**

**(Lansing – Potter Park Zoo and vicinity)**



**(Ionia – Free Fair Fairgrounds)**



**ADDITIONAL STATUS REPORTS WILL BE DEVELOPED AS NEW OR UPDATED INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.**